

Annual Operating Instructions Cattle and Horse Allotments

For the
Teton Basin Ranger District
Idaho/Wyoming
Driggs, Idaho

2011

Caribou- Targhee National Forest
Intermountain Region

Darby Creek C&H Allotment
Spring Creek C&H Allotment
Steven Wright, Marilyn Wright, and William Wright
2011

PLEASE CONTACT US FIVE DAYS IN ADVANCE OF STOCKING THE ALLOTMENT

PERMIT INFORMATION

| Number of livestock authorized to graze this year. | Season of Use |
|---|-----------------------|
| Requested and Authorized 100 head of cow/calf (pairs) (Trial Basis) | 7/1-9/30 |
| Spring Creek 100 c/c (Lower) | Rest |
| FS Administrative pasture | 7 days spring or fall |
| Darby Canyon 100 c/c (Unit #1) | 7/8-8/1 (23 days) |
| Darby Canyon 100 c/c (Unit #2) | 8/1- 8/20 (20 days) |
| Darby Canyon 100 c/c (Unit #3) | 8/21- 8/31 (11 days) |

The Darby and Spring Creek herds are going to be combined together as one managed herd on a trial basis. This is a management objective of the Allotment Management Plan for Darby Creek, approved 1/31/2008. The three units in Darby will be grazed in a 1, 2, and 3 grazing rotation. After the two upper units are grazed the cattle will then return to the private property. The Forest Administration Site is going available to permittee to graze in spring or fall for management of his livestock.

The north east side of the Spring Creek Allotment (above the Aspen Trail) has currently been burned and will be rested for two years. The lower portion was left to buffer the private property and help facilitate management of the Permittee's cattle. While the private fences are in fair to good shape there are instances when cattle get out. In addition the fence separating the Darby Canyon Allotment from Spring Creek is incomplete (has sections the cattle can go around) and has the Aspen trail running through it. There is a real concern that cattle will get out of the private property, go around fences or be chased by recreationist down the Aspen trail into this rest pasture. To mitigate these concerns the permittee has agreed to run lower numbers of livestock and work with the District to immediately remove livestock from the rest unit. If riding and removal of problem livestock in the rest unit is not effective in preventing use on the new burn then the permittee has agreed to remove the livestock from the Forest.

The Teton Creek Pasture will be available for fall grazing Sept 7 to Sept 30. Non-use for resource protection was made possible by the (2) Mill/Teton Creek Permittees. Permittee (Wright Family) has been willing to lower stocking number and provide additional privately owned spring grazing in order to develop a season long grazing rotation. The Forest Service has offered other ungrazed allotment to compensate loss time on the Spring Creek and Darby Allotments.

COMPLIANCE

This AOI is a yearly agreement that is part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8 (a). It is a working document, and situations may develop during the grazing season which requires changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

GRAZING STANDARDS

The Revised Targhee Forest Plan Standards are as follows:

1. Within the Aquatic Influence Zone (AIZ):
 - a. At least four inches of stubble must remain along the hydric greenline (HGL) at the end of the grazing period. The HGL is the first permanent vegetation next to the water's edge.
 - b. Away from the HGL, at least three inches of stubble will be left on the key riparian species at the end of the grazing period.
2. No more than 30 percent use of the current year's growth is allowed on the woody riparian vegetation (i.e., willows)
3. Allowable use on grasses and forbs in the uplands is 45 percent (dry weight); on upland shrubs (i.e., mountain mahogany) it is 35 percent of the current year's growth.

Once these use rates are reached the cattle will have to be moved to the next unit or they may be required to leave the Forest prior to the end of the grazing season. As you know this can be a concern due to the possibility of a below normal moisture summer ahead. Please consider how you may be able to accommodate your livestock on alternate feed sources if they are required to leave the Forest prior to the end of the grazing season.

OWNERSHIP

Cattle grazed under the Term Grazing Permit, must be owned by the term permit holder and branded with brand(s) authorized by the permit.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Fences and water developments will be maintained prior to cattle entering the allotment. The cattle access trails that were constructed through thick stands of brush and trees should be maintained to ensure cattle may utilize available forage in the uplands to lessen the use in the riparian areas.

We would like to review the allotment with you this summer to assess the needs of range improvements and overall management of the allotment. The authorized officer will contact you with a meeting date.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping in the control of noxious weeds. Remember, all livestock feed or straw brought on to the forest has to be certified weed free. We will be treating weeds again this season. Please report to us any new weed patches we have not been treating in the past.

MOTORIZED ACCESS

The Revised Targhee Forest Plan restricts motorized travel to designated routes only. For administrative purposes, grazing permittee(s) will be issued a permit to travel cross-country to maintain facilities for up to two vehicles per week. This permit should be adequate to allow you to repair water troughs, fences, and other range improvements. These improvements can be identified in your Term Grazing Permit on pages 6-8. For projects that require the permittee to travel off designated routes for more than two times per week an additional permit will be required. **Remember**, anywhere you drive the public will follow.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT

Good herding practices and wise salt placement will be needed to avoid over use of the riparian areas. No salt should be placed within ¼ mile of any created opening with trees less than 6 feet tall.

Please contact us five days before entering allotment for verification of range readiness.

Utilize side canyons and bench areas as much as possible. Working for uniform livestock use will allow you to stay longer on each unit. Don't graze cattle in plantations and clearcuts, until trees are 3- feet tall.

Any livestock feed or straw brought on the National Forest for camping must be certified weed free.

State laws require all non-virgin bulls to be trichomoniasis tested and tagged 45 days prior to grazing on public lands.

Stocks outside the permitted season or permitted area are considered excess livestock. When excess livestock are identified as belonging to a permittee; the permittee will be billed at the unauthorized use rate and permit action may be taken.

RECORD KEEPING

Included in your folder is a page of general grazing instructions. Please fill out the record and return it and the folder to us at the end of the grazing season. We appreciate your

cooperation in the past of writing your comments on the Actual Use Record. The comments are valuable to help us improve range management of the allotment.

If you have any questions please contact Matt Hoggan, Range Specialist, at 354-6625.

Requested by: /s/ Steven S Wright 4-6-2011
Permittee Date

Approved by: /s/ Jay Pence 4/6/2011
JAY PENCE, District Ranger Date